

MINUTES

LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 22, 2013 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Pat Boone, Catherine Brennan, Bruna Brylawski, Kimberlie Burns, Nita Eskew, Karen Hogan, Mary Beth Koza, Michael Long

Members Absent: Jacob Forstater, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Anthony Hackney, Rihe Liu, Kirby Zeman

Meeting commenced at 3:05 pm.

Laboratory Ventilation Policy Update

Long reviewed the updates to the University's [Laboratory Ventilation Policy](#) which outlines installation, removal, change, and monitoring of ducted and non-ducted equipment used to control exposure to chemicals, toxins, radionuclides, and biohazard agents. Minor formatting edits and well as addition of hyperlinks for references were done during update. In addition, a recent update to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z9.5 *Laboratory Ventilation Standard* warranted changes to:

- Alarm set points (pg. 2): "Alarms shall be calibrated to alarm at +/-20% of designed airflow."
- Face Velocity Pass/Fail Annual Test (pg. 7): "To pass, the average velocity must be within plus 20% or minus 10% of the design rating at the standard operating sash opening."

After review the committee approved the updated policy. The policy will go to the University Safety & Security Committee (USSC) meeting in June for final approval.

EHS Compliance Portal

Brennan demoed the [EHS Compliance Portal](#) which is a new web tool that employees and supervisors can use to track training and medical surveillance compliance. Employees can log in with their ONYEN to see their training history, required trainings, immunization history and medical surveillance history. Supervisors can log in to check their lab employees training and medical surveillance compliance. The portal also sends out reminder emails when someone is non-compliant in training or medical surveillance. Brennan asked that all committee members log in to review the portal and give feedback.

Injuries and Incidents, March-April 2013

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from March through April, 2013.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	Employee spilled methylene chloride saturated with carbon dioxide onto right arm.
Animal Bite	Employee was bit by mouse treated with 7,12-Dimethylbenz[a]anthracene (DMBA) while doing mouse work.
Blood Exposure, Needle stick	Employee was loading serum into a column and uncapped a needle and stuck hand.
Blood Exposure, Other Equipment	Employee was cleaning up after dissecting a human lung and punctured right hand glove with scalpel in left hand.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was giving intraperitoneal injections to mice and stuck themselves with a needle when they were collecting the needles to dispose of them.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was inflating mouse lung <i>via</i> trachea with cannula. After lacerating trachea with cannula needle, employee placed needle down on bench top. The needle rolled away further then employee realized and when they went to pick up reagent tube the employee pricked finger with needle.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was cutting frozen human samples for histopathology and cut right middle finger.

Strain: Repetitive Motion	Employee does repetitive arm movement associated with cell culturing 7-8 hours per workday and developed strain.
Strain: Repetitive Motion	Employee does repetitive motion in biosafety cabinet and developed strain.
Striking Against or Stepping On	Employee was working in animal surgical suite and bent down to pick up item. When employee came back up they hit head against door frame.
Struck or Injured By	Employee was stuck in left finger with a dissecting pen while working with mice.

For incidents, there were 4 fire alarms, 3 miscellaneous, 11 odor complaints and 2 mercury spills.

Other Committee Business

The uptick in mercury spills (4 so far in 2013 *versus* 3 overall in 2012) was discussed and a reminder will be sent out with the minutes regarding the [Mercury Free UNC Policy](#).

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.